



# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

## SECRET

*McFarlane*

P 250720Z OCT 73  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 889  
BT  
S E C R E T PEKING 1271

CN: 71190  
REC'D: OCTOBER 25, 1973  
3:50 A.M.

REFER TO DOS

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DIA REVIEWED 06-Dec-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PFOR CH US OGEN  
SUBJ: MARINE GUARDS

DOS REVIEWED 27-Dec-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

REF: STATE 209589

1. IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT THE CHINESE WOULD BACKTRACK TO THE EXTENT OF ACCEPTING OPTION "A". WE DOUBT THE WISDOM OF PRESENTING IT AS A SERIOUS OBJECTIVE, ALTHOUGH FOR TACTICAL REASONS IT MIGHT BE MENTIONED AS THE OPTIMUM SOLUTION FROM OUR STANDPOINT, GIVING RATIONALE AS IN REFTEL.

2. WE RECOMMEND AIMING FOR OPTION "B", AS A FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE FOR CHINESE INVOLVING NO GREAT COST TO US. (INCIDENTALLY WE KNOW OF NO "OFFENDING INDIVIDUALS" AS SUCH; THE CHINESE FOUND THE TOTAL CIRCUMSTANCE, AT LEAST AS IT FORMERLY EXISTED, OFFENSIVE.)

3. IN PRESENTING OPTION "B" WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE TACTICAL MERIT IN SAYING AT THE OUTSET (CONTRARY TO USUAL WESTERN USAGE OF THE FALL-BACK POSITION IN SEQUENCE) THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO OUR BEST ALONG THE LINES OF OPTION "C(1)" IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, BUT WE WOULD NOT ONLY BE UNHAPPY ABOUT IT, WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OUTBURST OF CRITICISM IN THE U.S, AS WELL AS THAT OF SIMILAR ACTION BEING REQUESTED BY THIRD COUNTRIES. OUR PAST EXPERIENCE IN USING CIVILIAN GUARDS HAS NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY. THEY WOULD BE OLDER, MOST WOULD HAVE FAMILIES REQUIRING EXTRA HOUSING, LONGER TOURS WOULD DOUBTLESS BE NECESSARY, AND MORALE WOULD BE MORE OF A PROBLEM. IF THIS UNDESIRABLE SOLUTION WERE ATTEMPTED, WE WOULD ONLY WANT TO DO SO ON THE BASIS THAT OUR MISSION IS NOT YET AN EMBASSY. AT SUCH TIME AS IT SHOULD BECOME ONE, WE WOULD WANT TO HAVE CAREFULLY CHOSEN MARINES IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES.

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4. (RETURNING TO OPTION "B.") WE WOULD, HOWEVER, GREATLY APPRECIATE CHINESE AGREEMENT TO OUR PHASING OUT ON A STAGGERED BASIS THE PRESENT CONTINGENT AND REPLACING THEM WITH A NEW GROUP WHO WOULD BE STRINGENTLY SCHOOLED IN THEIR EXPECTED DEPORTMENT. IF INSTRUCTIONS ARE EXPLICIT, MARINES WILL DO AS THEY ARE TOLD, INCLUDING THE PRESENT GROUP. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE MATTER OF THE BAR GOT SOMEWHAT OUT OF HAND, AND THAT WE WERE REMISS IN NOT REALIZING THAT SOONER. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MARINES ARE NOW BEHAVING IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER. WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS OF THE CHINESE SIDE, BUT THE PRC REQUEST HAS CREATED A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR US, WITH IMPLICATIONS BEYOND PEKING. IT CANNOT EASILY BE RESOLVED. WE HOPE THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND WHICH WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES.

4. FYI WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OPTION "C(2)" WOULD BE FEASIBLE AT THIS POST BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL PLANT, THE SIZE OF OUR STAFF AND THE LOGISTICS PROBLEM WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED.

BRUCE

BT

#1271

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